IN THE CLAIMS

1-21 (cancelled)

22. (new) A receiver, comprising:

a decoder buffer for receiving and storing encoded data packets in a plurality of access units, each of said access units for holding at least one data packet associated with a selected frame; and

a decoder,

wherein said decoder buffer comprises:

a re-transmission buffer region comprising at least one access unit for storing at least a first data packet that will be needed by said decoder next, wherein said decoder buffer, in response to a detection of a missing data packet in said retransmission region requests that said missing packet be retransmitted, and

a non-re-transmission buffer region comprising at least one access unit for storing at least a latest received data packet, the latest received data packet and the first data packet being different.

23. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 22 wherein at least one of the data packets are stored in the non-re-transmission buffer region for a period of time equal to a start-up delay time of the decoder buffer.

24. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 22 wherein the data packets are first stored in non-re-transmission buffer region and are shifted into the re-transmission buffer region.

25. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 22 wherein non-re-transmission buffer region is separate from the re-transmission region buffer region.

26. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 22 wherein non-re-transmission buffer region overlaps at least a portion of the re-transmission buffer region.

27. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 26 wherein the non-re-transmission buffer region overlaps all of the re-transmission buffer region.

28. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 22 wherein non-re-transmission buffer region is separated from the re-transmission buffer region by a second buffer region in which a late data packet is late with respect to an expected time of arrival of said late data packet, but is not sufficiently late to require a re-transmission of said late data packet.

29. (new) A receiver for receiving encoded streaming data comprising:

a decoder for decoding the encoded streaming data;

a display device for displaying information decoded by said decoder; and

a decoder buffer for receiving data packets comprising the encoded streaming data and storing the data packets in a plurality of access units, each of said access units for holding at least one data packet associated with a selected portion of the encoded streaming data, wherein said decoder buffer comprises:

a re-transmission region comprising at least one access unit for storing at least a first data packet that will be accessed by said decoder next, wherein said decoder buffer, in response to a detection of a missing data packet in said re-transmission region requests retransmission the missing packet,

a non-re-transmission buffer region comprising at least one access unit for storing at least a latest received data packet.

30. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 29 wherein at least one of said data packets are stored in the non-re-transmission buffer region for a period of time equal to a start-up delay time of said decoder buffer.

31. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 29 wherein said data packets are first stored in non-re-transmission buffer region and are shifted into the re-transmission buffer region.

32. (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 29 wherein the non-re-transmission buffer region is separate from the re-transmission buffer region.

33.   (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 29 wherein the non-re-transmission buffer region overlaps at least a portion of the re-transmission buffer region.

34.   (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 33 wherein the non-re-transmission buffer region overlaps all of the re-transmission buffer region.

35.   (new) The receiver set forth in Claim 29 wherein the non-re-transmission buffer region is separated from the re-transmission buffer region by a second buffer region in which a late data packet is late with respect to an expected time of arrival of said late data packet, but is not sufficiently late to require a re-transmission of said late data packet.